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RESOLUTION.

Whereas, The prevention of future catastrophic invasions of influenzal disease depends in part upon the conclusions which will follow a thorough statistical study of the epidemic and,

Whereas, The advances in statistical and mathematical science in recent years have made it possible to determine more readily the nature, probable causes, extent and perhaps the methods of control of such epidemics, in relation to climate, habitat, race, economic status, and other aspects of the life of mankind,

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the American Statistical Association, at its special meeting held in New York City, March 28, 1919, endorses the work begun by the American Public Health Association, and by other bodies associated with it, in outlining programmes for the tabulation and analysis of influenza statistics by municipal, state, federal and private organizations,

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Association urges qualified statisticians of its membership and in statistical societies elsewhere to apply every technical resource of modern statistical science in the study and interpretation of the published influenza data.

Committee on Resolutions:

G. H. VAN BUREN,

F. S. CRUM,

E. W. KOPF (Chairman).

ANENT THE NEW AND THE OLD IMMIGRATION.

Mr. Paul H. Douglas in the June issue of the *QUARTERLY* has undertaken to answer the question, "Is the new immigration more unskilled than the old?"

"It is commonly stated," he says, "that the newer immigration from Southeastern Europe is more unskilled than the older immigration from Northwestern Europe. This has been challenged by a few writers, *but it has not by any means been effectually refuted.*"

He therefore proceeds to compare the statistics of the old and the new immigration and comes to the conclusion that all the change amounts to is that "the unskilled laborers from the Southeast have displaced the unskilled laborers from the Northwest."

"If this long accepted belief in the higher percentage of skilled workers among the old immigration is, after all, erroneous, why has it been cherished for so long?" inquires Mr. Douglas. And he answers that, among other causes, it is due to "the custom of each generation to view the immigrants of its days as inferior to the stock that once came over."

These are precisely the conclusions which I have reached in my book "Immigration and Labor," referred to by Mr. Douglas. I am chagrined to learn from his article that "impartial students" have been led "to discredit the value of his (my) conclusions." Perhaps the methods by which

Mr. Douglas has arrived at his conclusions differ from those used by me? On pp. 67, 68 cited by Mr. Douglas there are two statistical tables in which the occupations of the immigrants are compared for the half-century, 1861-1910, by decennial periods. It appears that skilled workers constituted 24 per cent. in 1861-1870, 23.1 per cent. in 1871-1880, and a fraction over 20 per cent. from 1881 to 1910, whereas unskilled laborers and farm help combined constituted between 51 per cent. and 57.9 per cent. of all immigrants with occupations.

Mr. Douglas, on the other hand, confined himself to two periods within the same half-century, viz., 1871-1882 and 1899-1909, and found that "skilled workers comprised 22.9 per cent. of the immigrants from the countries from Northwestern Europe, 18.1 per cent. of those from South-eastern." But he considers the difference "not decisive."

Mr. Douglas' discovery encourages me to hope that if other "impartial students" will with the same painstaking efforts recompute some of the statistical tables contained in my book they may concur in his statement that "some of the prejudice against the newer races has not been wholly absent from some of the writings upon American immigration problems."

ISAAC A. HOURWICH.

RESOLUTION OF THE CASUALTY ACTUARIAL AND STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

At a meeting of this Society, held in New York City, May 23, 1919, the following resolution drawn by a special committee appointed by the President of the Society, upon recommendation of the regular Committee on 1920 Census, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS: The published results of the forthcoming Census of population, of manufactures, mines, quarries and forestry in the United States, as authorized by the bill enabling the Fourteenth and Subsequent Censuses, will materially advance casualty insurance science, and will help especially to solve numerous rate-making and administrative problems in that science.

Therefore be it unanimously resolved by the Casualty Actuarial and Statistical Society of America that—

1. The statistics of classified wages in the Census of manufactures, mines, quarries and forestry be tabulated to show for the principal industries in the several states the number of employees by one-dollar weekly-wage groups up to thirty-five dollars, and by five-dollar wage-groups thereafter.

2. The statistics of the occupations of the population be classified and tabulated to show in principal states the number of persons in the important specific occupation classes of each significant industry of each State.

3. The classification of "external causes" of death in the International List of Causes of Death, Second Decennial Revision, 1909, be amended to show, in its application to the annual statistics of mortality in the Regis-